Amendments to the Substitute Specification:

Replace the paragraph beginning at line 8 on page 18 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 3 (A,B) shows schematically the deduced amino acid sequence (A) (SEQ ID NO:1) of the B1 protein of the present invention and the determined nucleotide sequence coding therefor (B) (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein in the amino acid sequence is shown the kinase domain of B1 (boxed region at N-terminal end) and the CARD domain of B1 (underlined region at C-terminal end).

Replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 on page 57 with the following amended paragraph:

Cell death assay was carried out by growing 293-T cells in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's minimal essential medium supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum, non-essential amino acids, 100 U/ml penicillin and 100 μg/ml streptomycin. 293-T cells (5×10^5 cells in 6 cm dishes) were transiently transfected using the calcium phosphate precipitation method with the cDNAs of the different constructs together with the β-galactosidase expression vector. In the experiments, the results of which are shown in ~~Table VI below~~Figure 5, each dish was transfected with 1 μg of a p55 TNF-R, RIP or TRADD construct, 1 μg of the respective B1 or B1 mutant construct (or, as control, an empty vector), and 1 μg of pSV-β-gal

(Promega). The extent of cell death at the end of the incubation period was assessed by determination of β-galactosidase expression, as described by Boldin et al., 1996.